

Do You Really Believe it?
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

There are a lot of people out there who are hoping that the Bible is just a religious book like all the others, and that all those extreme statements about a literal heaven and literal hell are just symbolic metaphors designed to scare us in to being nicer to each other.

My hope today is to give you something better to count on than hoping that the book isn't really true.

Today, you are sitting in the midst of a bunch of people who know with absolute certainty that the Bible is true.

Our job, sometimes done well and sometimes not so much, is to prove to you with our lives that this is true.

Ephesians 5:8-10 says of us:

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are* ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

There is a day coming in which a trumpet will sound, the clouds will roll back like a scroll, and King Jesus will come again to receive those who are no longer in darkness, those who have been made acceptable to the Lord.

Above everything else in life, you need to be one of those!

1Thessalonians 4:14-17

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Some of you have been through some serious hard times in your life; you may be in the middle of some of it right now.

There are days of trouble coming on earth like this world has never seen before. There are things coming that will make the worst you have ever experienced seem like child's play.

In **Mark 13:24-27** Jesus tells us:

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Romans 14:11-12 states:

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The Lord is coming to set up His kingdom here on earth; we read of that day in

Matthew 25:31-46

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was hungry, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Some may be thinking:

“Come on, preacher, do you actually believe that all this is really going to happen; that unsaved people will actually be cast into a literal lake of fire?”

“You’re just a Bible thumper; preachers are supposed to say this stuff to scare us even if they don’t really believe it themselves.”

“So, I’m supposed to believe this just because some book says it?”

I could share those kinds of opinions if this was just ‘some book’ that says it...but this is not just ‘some book’, is it?

Jesus said in:

Mark 13:22-23

22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if *it were* possible, even the elect.

23 But take ye heed: behold, **I have foretold you all things.**

These foretellings, these prophecies that tell us about the coming of the Lord Jesus, the lake of fire, and the judgment of the nations, and the separating of the righteous from the unrighteous are just a few of the hundreds of other prophecies in the Bible; all of which, except for these few last ones, have already been fulfilled.

Things like the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem; the exile of Israel into Babylonian captivity; the gathering again of Israel into the promised land; the Savior being born in Bethlehem...hundreds of them; over three hundred just about Jesus alone...every one of them happened just like the Bible said they would and it is all recorded in the Bible as well as in secular history for any and all to see!

It’s really just a matter of good credit. If a man says he can do something, and over and over again he proves by doing it that he truly can do what he says...if that same man keeps his word and never breaks it; if he always pays his debts and always pays them on time over his entire life; that man has something we call ‘**good credit**’.

A bank will loan that man pretty much any amount he asks for.

For you to doubt what the Bible says is coming means that you are betting against perfect credit!

I’m sorry to break it to you but only a fool bets against perfect credit.

Today we are going to look at what IS and what IS NOT acceptable to God.

First we are going to look at:

I. What is not acceptable.

A. It is not acceptable that any of you should remain in darkness when we have the light of God's Word.

1. The message of the Bible is clear:

Ephesians 5:13-14

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

2. We understand from God's Word what our sin has done to us:

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. Until we see the light and trust the Lord Jesus to save us, we exist in a state of spiritual darkness and spiritual death.

4. **Ephesians 2:1** And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

5. Jesus came to this world to defeat death; and defeat death is exactly what He did!

6. He who knew no sin, died in our place.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

7. We already read in Matthew 25:46 that only the righteous depart into eternal life and righteousness is something that, on your own, you do not have!

B. It is not acceptable that any of you should perish when the righteousness you need is freely available.

1. 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2. You need to come to repentance! What does that mean?

3. It means that you need to change your mind about some things:

a. You need to quit hoping somehow that this book is not really true; it's true, all right, and you need to accept it.

b. You also need to change your mind about your good works; fact is, you don't have any!

c. **Hebrews 9:14**

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

d. **Isaiah 64:6** But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

e. **Romans 3:10-12**

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

4. The good news is that those who give up on their own righteousness and place their trust in the blood of Jesus to save them, will be freely given the perfect righteousness of God, that we all so desperately need!

5. **Romans 3:21-23**

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

6. **1Timothy 2:3-4**

3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

7. Here at Lighthouse we specialize in one thing above all else we do; we know how to show you, in love and kindness and clarity, how to know you are saved and going to heaven!

8. Please allow us the opportunity to share this with you?

9. Lighthouse members, there is one other thing that is simply not acceptable; that we who know the Lord Jesus, we who have been pardoned and changed, should continue to live for this world and not for Jesus, Who bought us back from our sins with His own blood!

Which brings us to:

II. What is acceptable.

A. All that come to God through Jesus Christ are made acceptable.

1. **Ephesians 1:3-7**

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, **wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

2. I, myself, being the sinner that I am, have been made acceptable to God because I placed my trust in Jesus to save me from my sins...and you can, too!

3. We who have been redeemed, who now have been changed on the inside; we now want to live for Jesus

B. Because Jesus has made us acceptable, we now want to live a life for Him that is acceptable as well.

1. There are simply things that do not belong in our lives anymore!

2. In **Ephesians 5:1-12**, back where we started out today it says:

1 Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children:

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor.

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

- 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.
- 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.
- 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye light* in the Lord: walk as children of light:
- 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
- 10 **Proving what is acceptable** unto the Lord.
- 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.
- 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

3. We now want to serve the Lord who bought us with His own blood!

4. **Romans 12:1-2**

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, **acceptable unto God**, *which is* your reasonable service.
- 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and **acceptable**, and perfect, will of God.

5. We who know Jesus, who have been made acceptable, who have been given the righteousness of God...we enjoy every day the best life has to offer!

Romans 14:17-18

- 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; *[it's not just a bunch of rules]* but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
- 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* acceptable to God, and approved of men.

In Conclusion:

If you came here doubting today...won't you reconsider what you believe about this book?

Won't you let Jesus make you acceptable today?

And if you have been made acceptable in Christ, let us together live a life that is acceptable to Him as well!